(My dear Mandlik,)

Lord Hardinge's visit kept me so busy that I regret I could not reply to your letter earlier. I am sorely distressed to hear of the unhappy circumstances which the family of the late Narottam has been reduced to. I feel all the more for the poor old lady, his mother, for the misfortune that has overtaken her at her advanced age. I am not sure if some small help from me would be acceptable. Not knowing the real affairs of the family, I feel considerable delicacy in proffering it for fear of hurting ~~the~~ their feelings more especially of Narottam's mother. I have however asked my Secretary to send you Rs.2000/- which you may kindly hand over to the old lady if that would be of some use to her for the time being till Mirza, who will halt in Bombay on his return home, tells me the actual situation in which the family is placed. If they are in very great difficulties, I intend after consulting Mirza to send the old lady something monthly. If however you think that she would take it amiss or that it would in any manner upset her feelings, do not hesitate to return the cheque to my Secretary.

With best wishes,

(I am,)

(Yours sincerely,)

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